

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2004 ("Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections/objections of claims 1-21 for at least the following reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indication that claims 3-6 and 8-11 contain allowable subject matter. In an effort to advance prosecution and allowance of the instant application, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 12, 13 and 14 to incorporate the allowable subject matter as suggested by the Examiner.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 8 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by this response. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-19 and 21 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 3-6 and 8-11 were previously objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 7 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,468 to Hatakeyama ("Hatakeyama"). Each of independent claims 1, 7, 12, 13 and 14 are amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1, 7, 12, 13 and 14 are moot. Likewise, the dependent claims 2 and 15-19 also necessarily contain the features recited in the independent claims and are,

therefore, also allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hatakeyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,380 to Chen ("Chen"). As noted above, claim 14 is amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claim 14 is moot. Likewise, the dependent claims 15-19 also necessarily contain the features recited in the independent claim and are, therefore, also allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

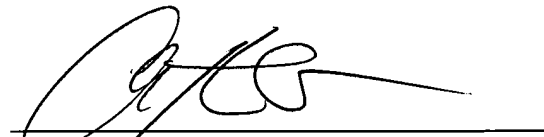
No fee is believed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if it is determined otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

Dated: January 10, 2005
Hunton & Williams LLP
Intellectual Property Department
1900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500 (telephone)
(202) 778-2201 (facsimile)

By:



Christopher Cuneo
Registration No. 42,450
For: Thomas E. Anderson
Registration No. 37,063